

A LETTER FROM VANCE.

Mr. Editor:—For more than a year our County Alliance has talked of the expediency of holding its sessions with the Sub Alliances instead of at the court house in Henderson. In April last we resolved to meet on July 13th—regular quarterly—at Dabney, near the western county line. This decision was reached after invitation extended by Dabney and Health seat Alliances.

The day was fine, the attendance large and the delegation enthusiastic, so the work of the body was well done. After a morning session, full of harmony, the Alliance found itself able to consume but a fraction of the bountiful and well-served dinner which the above named Sub Alliance had provided for the occasion. Only one thing was lacking at the tables. There were too few ladies to wait upon the guests. We appreciated much the presence and service of those who were with us.

When the time came for the election of officers to serve us for the next 12 months, M. B. Prince, of Sandy Creek Alliance (postoffice at Henderson) was chosen President; J. F. Coghill, Vice President. E. G. Butler, of Dabney, who has been our Secretary ever since the County Alliance was organized—nearly six years—was re-elected to that office. Bro. B. T. Tucker was again chosen Chaplain. Z. T. Garrett was made Lecturer and H. B. Hicks, Assistant Lecturer. The other officers were selected from among our best members. D. H. Gill will be our representative at the State Alliance. The impressive installative ceremony was next in order. Our beloved retiring President, Samuel Graham, took the leadership in the exercises which clothed the new officials with authority to work, each in his sphere.

Throughout the day many earnest talks were made. Our most worthy ex-Lecturer, T. A. Eaves, spoke feelingly about the Polk monumental fund. He urged that we do not allow the precious dust of our great dead to lie unmarked. He insisted that we raise to his memory a monument which, though of bronze or granite, cannot outlast the affection of us and of our posterity.

The speaker suggested that we look back and see what the Alliance has done for us and for our whole country. It has been a great teacher. We have learned through Alliance lectures more in a few years than in a lifetime before. We knew but little of governmental policy and of finance, because we had learned from prejudiced, one-sided sources. The value of what we have acquired outweighs by far what we have spent in time and money to gain it. We see that millionaires in a few years have become almost billionaires. Let us ask if the toilers of this great country have become poorer because of this. If not, all right. If they have suffered to make the rich richer, are you not willing to work to help bring financial reform? The great mission work of the Alliance is that of an educator.

Reference was made to the falling away of some who once were in the forefront of the reform battle, leaving the rank and file to carry with decimated leadership the strongholds of the plutocratic foe.

Bros. Tucker, Morgan, Garrett, Rev. Bro. Gilbreath and others spoke in burning words of the duties of the hour.

Among the resolutions unanimously adopted is the following. (It was offered by one of the directors of the Alliance Warehouse Company at Henderson.)

We, the County Alliance of Vance in regular session assembled at Dabney this 13th day of July, 1888, do resolve to put upon record the following, viz: The Alliance of this county did, at its regular session held in Henderson on the 5th day of October, 1888, make a move looking toward the reduction of tobacco warehouse charges, and did at a later date, through a duly appointed committee, agree with Bro. W. H. Jenkins to support a warehouse offering low charges for selling tobacco; and further, at its regular session of January 4th, 1889, did fully ratify and endorse the action of said committee, and renew its pledge to give earnest support to said warehouse, which was first opened for the sale of tobacco on November 1st, 1888, by Butler, Jenkins & Co., and operated by them for one year. When, at the close of the year, the Alliance expressed a desire to organize a co-operative tobacco warehouse company, Butler, Jenkins & Co. willingly yielded to the wishes of the Alliance, and consented to give up their business, and to be succeeded by said Alliance Warehouse Company, which at once began business, having elected Bro. W. H. Jenkins as manager, and our County Alliance Secretary, E. G. Butler, as its secretary and treasurer.

The Company's business has been successfully operated to the present time, about \$15,000 having been saved to patrons in warehouse charges, while

dividends aggregating 45 per cent. of the capital stock have been paid to stockholders during three years of the Company's existence.

In view of all of the above we wish to put upon record the fact that it gives us pleasure to know that the firm of Butler, Jenkins & Co. has been re-organized, and that they will succeed the retiring co-operative warehouse company, re-opening the house in time for the sale of the new crop. "Low charges" will still be their motto, while prices paid (if we may judge by the past) will be as high as can be obtained elsewhere. Therefore be it

Resolved, That this firm have renewed pledge of our support and our earnest wish for a long career of usefulness and prosperity.

After a day most pleasantly and profitably spent, the question arose as to where its like could be spent next time. Kittrell Alliance asked to be permitted to do the honors. So it was agreed that the October meeting be held with the brethren there. May the harmony which marked our session at Dabney prevail always in all Alliance gatherings.

GENERAL NOTES.

Letters from the Brethren Boiled Down to Save Space.

Bro. Jno. W. Holly, an earnest member of Mill Creek Alliance, No. 742, died recently. His lodge passed suitable memorial resolutions.

Belmont Alliance, No. 339, Iredell county, is opposed to the repeal of the Sherman law unless free coinage is substituted at the ratio of 16 to 1.

Bro. J. S. Heffner, of Henderson county, writes that Bro. Hoover's speeches have stimulated the Alliance very greatly west of the Blue Ridge.

Miss Martha Yeargan and Mrs. Lucy Rand, both members of Auburn Alliance, Wake county, died recently. They were highly esteemed by their neighbors.

Bro. W. H. High, Secretary of Bissett Alliance, No. 779, Nash county, writes that his Alliance is building up again. Old members are coming back and new ones joining.

A correspondent at Richlands, N. C., writes that he thinks it strange that while the plutocrats advise people to economize and go back to primitive methods, they never speak of reducing their own large incomes or salaries.

THE REFORM MOVEMENT.

KITTRELL, N. C.
Mr. Editor:—Allow me space in your paper to say a few words on the reform movement. Our government is an aristocracy, not a democracy. I have been deeply impressed with the fact for a good while that our government should be reformed. A democracy allows the right of the people to rule; an aristocracy allows the right of the big class of people to rule. Then we are living under an aristocratic government instead of a democratic one. It is time that the laboring class of people should come together, every one of them, and break down the money power which has usurped our government.

I read an article in one of the Democratic papers, which chronicled the sermon of a New York preacher. He took his text about the children of Israel giving Aaron their jewels to make them a calf to worship. He went on to state that the money has ruled in all ages and is going to rule in all ages to come. He went on to state the impossibility of the laboring class of people to rule this government. The reason why the laboring class cannot rule the government they won't come together, they are afraid of getting hurt. And how on earth can they be hurt more than they are hurt? I have borne the oppression so long and have seen the bad condition of so many people as I travel through the different counties, I am ready to exclaim as an old colored man when his master was whipping him: "Massa, don't put it all at one place; scatter it about." So I am in favor of a change of government, for better or for worse. If it is for worse, "scatter it about." I know every colored man is willing to vote for reformation if you will only insure them a better living. They only need some honest man, white or colored, to elucidate the reform movement and you will get their votes at the next election no mistake about that. I repeat it, the laboring class of people should unite in one solid phalanx and adjust the government. All the poor people want is party confidence, and they will cast their votes the right way. I know they will. I admonish the laboring class of people, and especially the colored ones, to exercise faith in the reform movement and vote for it. It is for their future good.

Truly yours,
W. H. PEACE.

It is better to know when to say yes and no than to know the meaning of every word in the dictionary.

WISE WORDS.

Words of Wisdom from Patriotic Papers that are Standing by the People—Read them Every Week.

Four hundred and thirty six failures last week against 160 same week last year.—*Arkansas Farmer*.

If Cleveland is right, then John Sherman and the Republican party are right.—*Atlanta Constitution*.

"The panic is now all over," placidly remarks a gold bug paper. Yes, all over the world.—*Denver Road*.

The bulldozers in Georgia have about had their day. They will soon be as tame as a Kansas Republican.—*Kansas Commoner*.

If silver is a discredited currency, how is it that in New York this week it was bought at a premium in gold?—*Farmers' Advocate*.

A crank is a man who votes for what he don't want, because he's afraid he can't get what he wants if he votes for it.—*Bulletin of Reform*.

Kansas has 9,000 miles of railroad, and it is bonded to Wall street and European Shylocks for \$400,000,000, or more than \$50,000 per mile.

The story goes that Senator Hill is going to antagonize Cleveland's silver policy. By the way, what is Cleveland's silver policy?—*Henderson, Ky, Courier*.

The "best financial system the world has ever had ever seen," said the Democratic and Republican orators last fall. Gentlemen, where is it at?—*Brockton, Mass., Diamond*.

Railroad attorneys cost the people of this country about fourteen millions per year. What do postoffice attorneys cost us? Do you "catch on"?—*Farmers' Tribune*.

"Confidence is gone," cries the old party papers. Yes, they are right; the confidence of the people in the old rotten parties is gone, and God knows it is time.—*American Enterprise*.

The click of the telegraph nowadays is but the echo of some hellish scheme to enslave our people. The truth rarely finds its route along this modern device for deception.—*Southern Mercury*.

The Sub Alliance is the foundation of the great reform work which is going on in this country. If you would strengthen the Order, build up the Sub Alliance.—*Atlanta Living Issues*.

A dead Congressman is worth more to his constituents and to his country than a traitorous one. These are pretty plain words, but it's just the way the people feel about it.—*Bulletin of Reform*.

When the fool-killer starts on his tour he will not forget the effeminate fool who started the movement to pay off Duke Vergara's debts with an American fund.—*Industrial Free Press*.

The objection to silver is an opposition to more money. If free coinage meant less money, those that now fight it would favor it, and those that now favor it would fight it.—*Missouri World*.

The Alliance is not falling to pieces in this county as some predicted. Twenty five per cent. increase over the January meeting and 100 per cent. increase in payment of dues.—*Onslow Blade*.

Business men are growling as never before. Hard times are surely here. Well, if the farmers and the laborers had more money the merchant would have no need for growling.—*Kansas Tidings*.

Congressman Bryan strikes the nail squarely when he says: "There are two classes of gold bugs, one for what there is in it and the other on account of ignorance. The first cannot be helped, the others are to be pitied."

A poor negro steals a 15-cent chicken and goes to the chain gang. An Election Heeler steals the rights of 75 of his fellow men as free citizens and his Christian friends recommend him as a suitable man for office.—*The Revolution*.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company has just discharged 4,000 of its employees. Where is Judge Ricks? The company ought to be brought into court and fined. It has no more right to discharge its employees than they have to quit.—*Gainsville, Texas, Signal*.

The most extensive cotton grower in the world, Col. Richardson, of Louisiana, says that with all his skill, tact, and business ability, his cotton costs him more than 6 cents per pound net to raise it. Where is the smart Aleck who says cotton can be grown for 2½ cents?—*Southern Mercury*.

Before next spring, unless relief is afforded, the hundreds of thousands of unemployed in the cities, will make things lively; and then the government will do what it should be doing at this very moment, provide money to sustain our industries.—*Farmers' Voice*.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY MEETING

Bro. Hoover's Speech and the Wise Action of the Executive Committee.

EXCELSIOR, N. C.

Mr. Editor:—The Brunswick County Alliance met at Town Creek on July 13th. The day was warm but the attendance large. All the Subs were represented, and the reports showed that the Alliance is holding its own in Brunswick.

Bro. Hoover having been secured for this meeting, put in an appearance and gave us a speech of two hours and a half, which was, to say the least, all that we could have wished for.

The following resolution of thanks was unanimously tendered the State Business Agency:

Resolved, That the thanks of Brunswick County Alliance be extended to the State Business Agency for having sent Bro. Hoover in response to our request and feel that we have been greatly benefited by his admirable address, and the great cause of the Alliance has been advanced and a new impetus to future effort will immediately follow.

The most significant feature of the meeting was that the Executive Committee was allowed to use \$50 of the finances of the county, \$20 to be judiciously expended for Alliance literature and \$30 to be used in defraying expenses of speakers for our county meetings.

Fraternally yours,
W. S. MILLIKEN.

ALL CAUSED BY THE SHERMAN LAW.

Mr. Editor:—As I have not seen anything from Rock Creek Alliance, No. 647, for sometime, I thought I would write you about it and the vicinity. We are in good working trim and have a large membership, some as good grit as there is anywhere. We have lost but few members on account of politics and we have one application for membership. But strange things are taking place. Mr. Cleveland is in favor of repealing the Sherman act. I tell you that things are getting squally up here. The rats and bullfrogs have taken to catching chickens, and worse than that, the buzzards eat tomatoes, watermelons and cucumbers right here in Alamance county and all under Mr. Cleveland's administration.

Now, Mr. Editor, I wish someone would ask Mr. Bilkins or his wife Betsy to intercede for us and ask that great Democratic Congress to pass some law to keep these ferocious animals and birds from destroying our property. We have started for reform and must have it, for we cannot do without it, so Mr. Cleveland and that much looked for Congress just as well give it to us at this session.

R. O. HARGIS.

WATAUGA RESOLUTIONS.

EOONE, N. C.

Mr. Editor:—At a meeting of Watauga County Alliance, held on Aug. 7th, 1888, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted: WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States is this day convened in extra session to consider and legislate on the financial situation; and whereas, it is the sense of this Alliance that we should have free coinage of both gold and silver upon a parity of value. Therefore be it

Resolved, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to vote against the repeal of the Sherman law until something better is substituted in its stead.

2. That said Senators and Representatives are requested to vote against the repeal of the tax on State banks, and in lieu thereof vote for legal tender non-interest bearing notes, issued by the U. S. Government direct to the people, or a better system.

W. J. CRITCHER, Pres.

L. N. PERKINS, Sec.

BAD TIMES DOWN EAST.

HEAD OF FUNGO, N. C.

Mr. Editor:—You say you want correspondents in every county who will write facts of value. Well, if I am to inform you of the condition of my community, your sensations will mortify when you read this letter. The lumber companies have suspended operations and hundreds of laboring people are thrown out of employment. Such a time has never before been witnessed in this country. Strong men are parading the land in search of work. There isn't enough provisions in the land to last the people until something can be obtained from the fields. A portion of the people have enough to subsist upon, but they will have to divide with those who have nothing. In this dreadful state of affairs the whippersnapper politicians and lick-splitters of the Democratic party are trying to captivate the people by sophistry. We are told by the servants of plutocracy that the present silver law is the cause of all this calamity. What the result will be no one seems able to tell. The wisest of our people

are dreading the future. The proceeding of Cleveland so far has deceived many, for every one who voted the Democratic ticket did so because they loved party better than principle.

Yes, Bro. Ramsey, I am proud to tell you that I have neighbors who opposed me in the last contest who will never do that again. They, upon examination, have learned that whatever is my interest is their interest, and that what ever is good for me is good for them. An investigation of the true situation has parted the fetters of political bondage, and men all over the land, however partisan in the past, are awakening from their long slumber of political delusions.

M. D. CHAMBERS.

SHILOH ALLIANCE, NO. 1,216.

SHILOH, N. C.

Mr. Editor:—Since I have been reading THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER I have read many pleasant and encouraging letters from different Alliances throughout this grand old State, but not one word have I seen from our Alliance. Do not think that we are dead simply because we do not trouble you every mail with some article or other. We are all poor and hard-working men, but are of pure Alliance grit. We are not so strong as some Alliances, but we are there and likely to stay there so long as we have such brethren to lead us as brothers Butler, Thompson, Hoover and others, and THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and *Caucasian* to read. I believe the Farmers' Alliance to be one of the noblest institutions ever gotten up by man, the church of God being its only superior. May God bless the Alliance, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and *Caucasian* and their worthy editors.

Yours for reform,

W. S. BARTLETT.

BERTIE COUNTY SOLID.

WINDSOR, N. C.

Mr. Editor:—Bertie County Alliance is not dead or dying, as the politicians tell us. Her report for last quarter is an increase of ten per cent. The plutocrats thought we were dead, but since the Thursday meeting they have commenced anew their denunciations and are crying out the Alliance is still trying to ruin the Democratic party. Our little editor pranced out in his paper a few days ago advising, or rather told the school committeemen of the county that they had no right to let Alliance men hold meetings in the public school houses. He is an expounder of the law that will not be sought for by the good citizens of Bertie county, be they Alliance men or non Alliance men. He, like others that have passed on before him, will soon be forgotten and his departure will be hailed with as little regret as any that have figured among us, especially law expounders.

ALLIANCEMAN.

CHATHAM COUNTY MEETING.

Mr. Editor:—The last meeting of the Chatham County Alliance was one of unusual interest. Some were present who had not been attending the meetings of the Alliance for 12 months or more and some Sub Alliances which were disorganized reported that they had come back and come to stay. The Alliance is in better shape in Chatham than it has been for a long time. Old members are being reinstated and new ones are coming in.

The following resolutions were adopted and the Secretary instructed to send them to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER for publication.

WHEREAS, We have received notice from the President of the State Alliance that an effort will be made to repeal the law known as the "Sherman law" at the extraordinary session of Congress, and fearing that no provision will be made for the continued coinage of silver. And whereas, we believe such action will place us squarely upon a gold basis and thus bring untold misery and oppression upon the farming and debtor classes. Therefore be it

Resolved, That we call upon our Representative in Congress to use his influence to sustain the Sherman act unless other laws are enacted giving us a larger legal tender circulation, necessary to the wants and demands of the people.

2. That we recommend that one or more men be appointed in each community to circulate a petition to Hon. B. H. Bunn, M. C., 4th district to this end.

3. That we call upon all good citizens who believe as we do in this matter, regardless of party or prejudice, to assist in making the petition from this county as large as possible.

4. That we call the attention of the Secretary of the Treasury to the third section of the Sherman act and we urge him to observe this section and carry into effect its provision.

J. A. ALSTON,

W. F. STROUT,

J. E. SPENCE,

Committee.

W. N. STRAUGHN, Sec.

A REPLY TO MR. RANDALL.

Mr. Editor:—I see an article in the *Atlanta Journal*, written by Mr. G. H. Randall, in which he claims that he has discovered a plan which, if put into practice, would satisfactorily settle the financial question. This plan of Mr. Randall's will no doubt attract the attention of goldbugs for it, like the howling of other solonidates, seeks to mould sentiment against silver for the express advantage of gold. Mr. Randall writes fluently and from the tenor of his sophistry one would suppose him a creditor whose vaults were stuffed with votes and mortgages representing a mountain of wealth that had been accumulated by frugal industry under a contracted currency. The gentleman starts out by declaring gold to be the only true measure of wealth, but at the same time admits that there is no just reason why a gold dollar's worth of silver should not be utilized provided that the intrinsic value is not suborned by an arbitrary decree pronouncing a certain number of grains as constituting a dollar. When Mr. Randall declares that gold is the only true measure of wealth he not only manifested himself to the world as an unconditional servant of plutocracy but at the same time stultifies himself in the estimation of all just thinking people.

What the gentleman means by the assertion that gold is the only real measure of wealth is somewhat vague in its distinction, as it does not definitely rest upon any well organized principle of common sense. If he wishes to impress upon the minds of his readers that gold is the only safe instrument of commerce, he falls into an error equally as absurd, to use his own language, as did the ancients when they entertained the idea that the sun revolved around the world instead of vice versa. For instance, the gentleman himself has financial integrity to the extent of being the possessor of \$5,000 worth of real estate, or property to that amount of any other kind he would not in a case of emergency hesitate to issue his note when necessity demanded it, because that note could be used in lieu of ready cash. No man who had faith in his commercial standing would refuse to accept it as such. But the gentleman insists on gold being the only true representative of wealth, consequently under the influence of his own doctrine I would demand discount upon his note, for common sense reveals to the minds of all sane men that a currency certified failing to keep pace with the increase of population and industry, has a tendency to increase the power of money there by decreasing the price of all other property.

But the gentleman has discovered a plan that will adjust the financial question. He says, resolve the immense horde of shamed-faced silver dollars back into bullion and equally distribute it to the States as a basis of security for a corresponding issue of silver certificates, to read as follows: Those in denominations of from \$1 to \$5 to be made redeemable in gold in four years after date; over \$5, in six years, secured by an exchangeable in silver ingots deposited in the treasury at their market value.

This is Mr. Randall's plan, and I have nothing to offer in the way of argument to defeat it. I will simply reproduce his own argument and by it his plan will either stand or fall. Mr. Randall says the idea so often advanced by the unthinking of putting a dollar's worth of silver in a coin, thereby making it worth a dollar, is most illusory. They forget that silver, though worth 80 cents an ounce to-day, may fall to 60 cents to-morrow. Mr. Randall sees the point on this, and if he will carefully view silver bullion deposited with the States as a basis of paper covering, he can certainly see that when a certain amount of paper has been issued upon a certain amount of silver say at 75 cents an ounce, the price of bullion must be maintained or the paper would be counterfeited to the extent of the decline in the price of the bullion. But, says Mr. Randall, the real unit of value must never in the vicissitudes of all time go below par whereas silver has depreciated 60 per cent. in the last 15 years. Mr. Randall seems to be anxious to enlighten some one upon the silver question, but in doing so ignores the fact that silver was never known to go below par until it was demonetized.

That silver has fallen since its debasement we all concede, and that gold has preserved through the same period is equally admissible. Prior to 1873, 371½ grains of silver were worth 100 cents. Why? Because the producer of the bullion could carry it to the mint and have it coined into money and it was his. To day 254½ grains of gold is worth 100 cents. Why? Because the producer of gold bullion can carry it to the mints and have it coined into money. Let the friends of gold maintain that a universal decree of the world providing that one pound of lead should be worth 100 cents would have no tendency to increase the price of lead. Silver was worth 100 cents before it was demonetized and will be worth 100 cents just so soon as it is demonetized.

M. D. CHAMBERS.